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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/562,105	12/22/2005	Helmut Jerg	2003P00938WOUS	8104
46726 7590 10/27/2009 BSH HOME APPLIANCES CORPORATION INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT 100 BOSCH BOULEVARD NEW BERN, NC 28562				
EXAMINER				
GRAVINI, STEPHEN MICHAEL				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3743				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
10/27/2009		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

NBN-IntelProp@bshg.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/562,105

Applicant(s)

JERG ET AL.

Examiner

Stephen M. Gravini

Art Unit

3743

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 August 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 December 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 9-12 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Weichselgartner (US 4,741,882). The claims are reasonably and broadly construed, in light of the accompanying specification, to be disclosed by Weichselgartner, as comprising:

subjecting items retained in the device to a drying step after the items have undergone a treatment step as a result of which moisture remains on the items, the step of drying including drawing at least one of air from a treatment chamber and ambient air through a sorption column and thereafter guiding the air that has passed through the sorption column into a treatment chamber, the sorption column containing reversibly dehydratable material that operates to withdraw moisture from air during the passage of the air through the sorption column at column 3 lines 22-55; and

effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material in the sorption column via drawing at least one of air from the treatment chamber and ambient air through a sorption column by means of an air accelerator means, subjecting air passing through the sorption column to heating, and guiding the air that has been heated as it passed through the sorption column into the treatment chamber, whereupon the air guided into the treatment chamber heats at least one of a

treatment liquid to be applied to the items retained in the device and the items themselves column 5 lines 3-65. Weichselgartner also discloses the claimed steps of effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material includes heating air during its passage through the sorption column by heat of condensation and a selected one of additional heating via a heater and no additional heating via a heater at column 5 line 3, wherein the passage of air is undertaken during a program step using treatment liquid to be heated at column 5 lines 55-57, wherein effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material includes heating air during its passage through the sorption column and thereafter passing the air through a heat storage device for cooling in order to intermediately store the heat used for desorption in the heat storage device, further including thereafter passing air for heating purposes through the heat storage device and into the treatment chamber at column 5 line 20, guiding the air that has been heated as it passed through the sorption column into the treatment chamber includes cooling the air that has been heated at a location intermediate the sorption column and the treatment chamber at column 4 lines 49-56, wherein cooling the air that has been heated at a location intermediate the sorption column and the treatment chamber includes contacting the air that has been heated with a liquid having a temperature less than the air such that at least some evaporation of the liquid occurs, whereupon a cooling of the air takes place as a result of evaporation cooling at column 4 line 63 through column 5 line 2, and a step of drawing air from at least one of a source of air consisting of air from the treatment chamber and a source of air consisting of ambient air through the sorption column by means of an air accelerator means after the

step of effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material in the sorption column, this step including drawing such air through the sorption column from the respective source of air substantially without imparting heat to the air from after the air exits the respective source of air up to its entry into the sorption column, the air drawn through the sorption column being heated within the sorption column via heat of condensation as liquid is condensed from the air and absorbed by sorption material in the sorption column, and guiding the air that has been heated as it passed through the sorption column into the treatment chamber, whereupon the air guided into the treatment chamber heats at least one of a treatment liquid to be applied to the items retained in the device and the items themselves at column 2 lines14-63.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weichselgartner in view of Tuck et al. (US 3,034,221). Weichselgartner discloses the claimed invention, as rejected above, except for the claimed features including effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material includes heating the air via a heater in a pipe to the sorption column, wherein at least one of the treatment liquid and the items are heated by the heated air and effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material includes at least partly delivering the desorbed moisture from the sorption column into at least one of the treatment chamber or the heat storage device, and wherein effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material includes heating the air via the heat of condensation in the sorption column. Tuck, another method for operating a device, discloses effecting desorption of the reversibly

dehydratable material includes heating the air via a heater in a pipe to the sorption column at column 2 lines 17-27, wherein at least one of the treatment liquid and the items are heated by the heated air and effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material includes at least partly delivering the desorbed moisture from the sorption column into at least one of the treatment chamber or the heat storage device, and wherein effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material includes heating the air via the heat of condensation in the sorption column at column 2 line 54 through column 3 line 59 respectively. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Weichselgartner with the features disclosed in Tuck for the purpose of efficiently using heated air to provide an effective use of energy in using waste heat to minimize the cost of reverse dehydration in sorption columns.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weichselgartner in view of Chamberlain (US 2,633,928). Weichselgartner discloses the claimed invention, as rejected above, except for the claimed crockery features.. Chamberlain, another method for operating a device, discloses that feature at figure 20. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Weichselgartner with the crockery features disclosed in Chamberlain for the purpose of efficiently using heated air to provide an effective use of energy in using waste heat to minimize the cost of reverse dehydration in sorption columns.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed April 13, 2009 have been fully considered but they are persuasive.

Weichselgartner anticipation

Although the Weichselgartner primary reference discloses may not disclose removed heat treatment gas for liquid or chamber from a sorption device, it is current Office practice to construed the claims reasonably broad, in light of the accompanying specification, such that the structure and function of the claimed invention is met by the prior art.

Obviousness rejection

Since the anticipation rejection is maintained, so is the obviousness rejection.

Conclusion

Other prior art references cited in this action disclose one ore more features of the claimed invention, but are not used to rejecting the claims in this action.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Gravini whose telephone number is 571 272 4875. The examiner can normally be reached on normal weekday business hours (east coast time).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kenneth B. Rinehart can be reached on 571 272 4881. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Stephen Gravini/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3743